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**SOUTH BRONX DRUG GANGLERS SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS IN
FEDERAL PRISON ON HEROIN, CRACK AND WEAPONS CHARGES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that two brothers, WILLIAM MORALES, a/k/a "Willy," and WILFREDO MORALES, a/k/a "Wolfie," were each sentenced late yesterday to 23 years in prison for distribution of heroin and crack cocaine from 1999 through 2002 in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. The two brothers were sentenced by United States District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY following guilty pleas in which they admitted to running a drug spot and also to owning firearms in connection with their drug business.

According to the indictment, the MORALES narcotics organization distributed several brands of heroin, including heroin labeled "Hot Stuff," "Cash Bodies," and "Death Certificate," as well as crack cocaine. All eight members of the MORALES narcotics organization who were arrested on federal narcotics charges have since been convicted, with other organization members receiving prison sentences as high as twelve years. In imposing sentence, Judge PAULEY noted that the MORALES organization had distributed "tens of thousands, and quite possibly hundreds of thousands" of packages of heroin and crack into the community.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, comprised of agents and detectives from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the New York State Police, and the New York City Police Department.

Mr. GARCIA stated: "The sentences imposed on the Morales brothers and their co-conspirators have put their drug gang out of business. The South Bronx is a better and safer place today because of the determined and sustained efforts of the dedicated members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force."

Assistant United States Attorneys LAURIE KORENBAUM and HARRY A. CHERNOFF are in charge of the prosecutions.